



Macrophyllum

JANUARY 2010

Newsletter of the
Siuslaw Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
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UPCOMING Chapter Events

Meeting Topic- Hinsdale Estate; Steve Samuels is our presenter with Bill Johnson's slides
Chapter Meeting – Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 6:45 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church, 3996 Hwy 101 N in Florence. Pre-meeting dinner will be at 5:00 at Rosa's Mexican Restaurant. Rosa's now has a new banquet room at the back of the Restaurant that should accommodate all of us. Call or e-mail Rosemary Rebella for reservations at 541-997-6167 or tonyrosemay@charter.net by noon on Friday, January 15th.
Gallagher Park Work Party – Wednesday January 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The park is at the corner of Spruce and Hwy 126. Gene Cockeram- City Park Commissioner. flowerman@q.com
Cookie Team- Sandi Hennig, Nancy Fulmer, Nan Osban, Merilee Mulvey
Remember... as of January 2010, you must add the area code when dialing phone numbers, even locally!

J is for January...

This picture is not very clear, but I think you can imagine the beauty of this Vireya.

Rhododendron javanicum ssp. javanicum ►

Section Euvireya; Subsection Euvireya
Height - 5m - terrestrial or epiphytic
Leaves - elliptic - 15 x 5cm
Flowers - usually orange with red or violet markings in throat, occasionally yellow - funnel-shaped - 5cm - up to 12 per umbel
Location - Indonesia: Sumatra, Java to Bali - 800-2550m
Epithet - "from Java"



◄R. javanicum Orange

Growing to a small tree to 16 feet it has the distinctive ball shaped truss of javanicum with a pumpkin orange color with a pinkish throat. Profuse flowering, a full habit and an easy grower, a good choice for a garden specimen. From Java as its name implies but also found in Sumatra and Bali. Received this as RSF 1978/089.

FREEZE PROOF POTS... A GOOD THING

I actually had time to read the paper several weeks ago and ran across an interesting article in the *Register Guard Home & Garden* section, written by Sarah Robertson. It was titled "Freeze-proof pots." Yes, folks, it does freeze once in awhile here in balmy Florence! There are many members who have beautiful terra cotta pots on their decks and patios. Let's see how we can protect them in winter.

Sarah talks about how most gardeners in harsher climates empty then clean and sanitize their pots before storing them away for the winter months. Here on the Oregon coast many of our potted plants can overwinter outdoors but there is that occasional freeze that can burst a pot in no time. Some of us have pots with large shrubs or even small trees and there is no way we could empty those critters! So, the next best thing is *winterizing* the pots and Sarah tells us how.

Sarah says, "terra cotta pots have an insidious enemy: winter moisture." A freeze and thaw cycle which results in expansion and contraction of the clay, can weaken the pots. "Drainage is critical if terra-cotta planters are going to last more than a year. Water needs to drain from the pot and away from the pot if the clay is to stay relatively dry. All pots should be up on pot feet." After trimming the plant and adding a slow release fertilizer, if needed, then water if necessary.

Next, we need to wash the outsides of the pots thoroughly. Buy some bubble wrap (yes, the kind of rolls of bubble wrap used for packing). After drying the outside of the pot thoroughly, wrap the outside of the pot with a layer of bubble wrap. Make sure there is at least 3 to 6 inches of wrap above the side of the pot. Then tape the wrap securely and insulate the inside of the pot with cocoa hulls or shredded autumn leaves. This process will not only protect the pot, but also the plant growing inside of it.

Sarah mentions that professional growers recommend making sure that you get your pots at least an inch off a wood deck, concrete or stone patio to help prevent freezing. Air gives freezing soil room to expand which reduces the likelihood of a broken container. To accomplish this, just line the bottom of your pot with 2 to 4 inches of Styrofoam popcorn or packaging material when you first pot a plant. Other materials you can use in place of bubble wrap, to insulate and protect pots, is mulch or bales of hay.

If you have a chance to read the Register Guard, look for their monthly *Home & Garden* section, which is usually an insert in the Thursday edition around the 17th of the month. The Siuslaw Public Library has a subscription to this newspaper available in their magazine/newspaper section which is newly remodeled and a wonderful spot to rest your caboose for a few minutes and catch up on the news!

The First Rhododendron Festival...

Here is an article from the 1949 Siuslaw Pioneer booklet.

Wednesday, May 20, 1908, was Florence's most memorable day. It was the day of its first Rhododendron Festival and Queen Rhododendra I, Laura Johnson, was crowned by Joaquin Miller, poet of the Sierras who as her prime minister delivered a 1600 word address devoted largely to the history of the rhododendron and the part beauty plays in civilization.

Streets were decorated in evergreen and arches of the honored blooms. The keys of the city presented to the queen by Mayor George P. Edwards, deceased in 1944, were made of rhododendron wood and suitably inscribed.

A floral decked barge housed the queen and her court, who were the Misses Flossie Chapman, Dena Schreuder, Hazel Weatherson, Ella Wilson, Ethel Munroe, Marguerite Hurd, Eva Walker and Florence Fox.

There are copies of some of the Siuslaw Pioneer booklets in the gift shop at the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum in Old Town Florence. The address is 278 Maple Street and their phone number is 541-997-7884. Call for visitation hours/days.

Chapter Contacts

Editor's Corner:

Those of you who may be lucky enough to manage a trip to New York in the spring of 2010 must be sure to attend the Spring Rhododendron Convention in Ronkonkoma, New York. Pages 198-200 of our *Fall ARS Journal* 2009 tell you all about this wonderful gathering.

May 14-17, 2010 is the convention timeline, planned to coincide with the peak bloom period on Long Island. There will be garden tours on Saturday and Sunday. There will be seven (district 7) hybridizers as presenters. Six private gardens will be featured. A flower show is planned along with a plant sale.

Look for your registration form and more information in the *winter 2010* issue of the *ARS Journal* coming out soon. This is a perfect opportunity to see and enjoy the gardens of the east coast and find out what members and hybridizers are doing.

Last, but not least, I wish all of you a wonderful New Year celebration into 2010. Drive safely and stay warm!

Blessings from your Editor, Merilee ☺



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Siuslaw Chapter ARS Mission Statement

The Mission of the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is to promote the genus Rhododendron by:

- Creating enthusiasm for the genus Rhododendron through meetings, shows, publications, and social activities that provide the opportunities for members to share experiences and build friendships.
- Providing educational opportunities to successfully grow and enjoy these wonderful plants.
- Encouraging propagation and hybridizing of species and hybrid rhododendrons.
- Furthering the planting and use of rhododendrons and azaleas in home, business, and public landscapes.
- Advocating the conservation and preservation of superior plants of our native Rhododendrons and their habitat along the Oregon Coast.
- Advancing and supporting the mission of the American Rhododendron Society.